

IPRS/ : 71191 26 May 1978 INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS
Trans on Near East, # 1800

JF

IRAQ, ALGERIA RELATIONS BECOME STRAINED

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 22 Apr 78 p 9

[Article by 'Ali Hashim: "Silent Crisis Between Iraq and Algeria; Sultan's Visit to Baghdad Confined to Gulf Affairs"]

[Text] Baghdad--Diplomatic sources in Baghdad have affirmed that the Iraqi-Algerian relations are undergoing a silent crisis which the officials of both countries are trying to contain so it may not turn into an open crisis.

These sources have said that the crisis began when Baghdad called for holding the "steadfastness and liberation conference." President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr addressed messages to this effect to the heads of the rejectionist states. He also drew up a charter for the front. Despite Algeria's initial approval of the Iraqi proposals, Baghdad was surprised with the setting of a date for the rejectionist fronts [to meet] in Algiers itself. At the time, the relations were shaken and Baghdad hinted indirectly that Algiers had carried an outflanking movement to foil Iraq's efforts and proposals, to freeze its call for establishing the "steadfastness and liberation" front and to cast doubts on its positions.

The Iraqi campaign did not go beyond the limits of hinting until the emergence of the recent developments which were touched off by the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and which Baghdad called the "feeble position" adopted by the rejectionist (steadfastness and confrontation) states and the "indecisive" resolutions adopted by the foreign ministers of these states in their special conferences in Damascus.

Baghdad accused Algiers at the time of going along with Damascus in making these resolutions "indecisive" and in failing to confront by force the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Up to this point, the matter remained at the limit of hinting and Iraq did not take any special initiative to indicate its campaign even though it encouraged and published whatever was said about the "feeble" Algerian stance.

BANNA, Saudi

Salvador

BANNA

DF Pop

PALESTINE

Palestinian Attack on Algeria

There was a semi-change this week.

The publication AL-THAWRAH AL-FILISTINIYAH is published in Baghdad and is supervised by Abu Nidal who was expelled from Fatah and who now resides in Baghdad. This week, this publication appeared with an open and concentrated attack against Algeria and against President Houari Doumedienne in particular.

Diplomatic sources say that the al-Hashimi al-Qadduri, the Algerian charge d'affaires, drew the attention of the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the matter. Al-Qadduri is known for his friendships with a large number of leaders in Baghdad. This attention drawing was followed by the arrival of a personal emissary of President Boumedienne to Baghdad. The emissary was 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Mahdi who carried a message from his president to President al-Bakr.

The first reaction was that AL-THAWRAH AL-FILISTINIYAH was banned from circulation this week. The second reaction was that the Iraqi officials informed the Algerian emissary that they do not want to launch a campaign against Algeria and that they are seeking to enhance the relations with it. However, they have not changed their view of the Arab reality, namely that the "steadfastness and confrontation front" who mainstay is Algeria is only a tent to absorb the Arab popular wrath and to defuse this wrath and is not the proper instrument to form a liberation strategy.

Baghdad Clings to Its Position

While dealing with its relations with Algeria, Baghdad still adopts an inflexible stance toward the Arab situation. It is still refusing the calls for holding an Arab summit conference and for solidarity.

Baghdad's position was negative toward the working paper that was prepared by King Husayn and was carried to the Iraqi officials by Sulayman 'Arar, his minister of interior.

Baghdad's position was also negative toward the message sent by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, to his Iraqi counterpart Dr Sa'dun Hammadi.

Saudi Antidote

Baghdad, according to what it says, does not bargain over national positions. But till when?

Can the Saudi conviction affect the Iraqi intransigence?

Answering the two questions, informed Iraqi sources have said that the Saudi conviction does have influence, but in the special and joint spheres between the two countries and not in national issues.